

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-8 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge detachably attachable to a main body of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising:

an electrophotographic photosensitive member on which an electrostatic latent image is formed,

process means ~~acting~~ working on the electrophotographic photosensitive member,

a flexible member adapted to protect ~~the~~ said electrophotographic photosensitive member and capable of ~~taking~~ assuming a protection position in which ~~the~~ said flexible member protects ~~the~~ said electrophotographic photosensitive member and a retraction position in which ~~the~~ said flexible member retracts from the protection position,

a support member having a support portion on which ~~the~~ said flexible member is supported, provided pivotably on a frame of ~~the~~ said cartridge and adapted to move ~~the~~ said flexible member from the protection position to the retraction position, and

a regulating member provided on ~~the~~ said flexible member so as to regulate the positions of creases which occur on ~~the~~ said flexible member in ~~accordance with~~ response to a pivotal movement of ~~the~~ said support member, and which extend ~~in~~ parallel with the longitudinal direction of ~~the~~ said electrophotographic photosensitive member,

~~the~~ said flexible member being ~~folded~~ foldable on the creases and ~~moved~~ movable to the retraction position.

2. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ wherein:
the said flexible member is bent to an outer side of the said process cartridge when the said flexible member is in the protection position, in such a manner that the said flexible member does not contact the said electrophotographic photosensitive member,
the said support portion passing through a region between the said regulating member and the said electrophotographic photosensitive member in ~~accordance with~~ response to a pivotal movement of the said support member.

3. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ wherein: the said flexible member develops has:

a first crease occurring in a region between the said regulating member and said support portion in response to ~~accordance with~~ a pivotal movement of the said support member, and

a second crease occurring in a region between the said regulating member and the said support portion at which the said cartridge supports the said flexible member, in response to ~~accordance with~~ a further pivotal movement of the said support member beyond the pivotal movement performed to create the first crease.

4. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 1,
~~wherein~~ wherein: the said cartridge further comprises has a handle facilitating attachment of said cartridge to and detachment of said cartridge from ~~used when the cartridge is attached to and detached from~~ the main body of the apparatus, and

the said regulating member ~~contacting the~~ contacts said handle when the said flexible

member is folded in ~~accordance with~~ response to a pivotal movement of ~~the~~ said support member, to cause ~~the~~ said handle to retract to ~~the~~ a retraction position.

5. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 2 or 3, wherein ~~wherein:~~ the rigidity of ~~the~~ said regulating member is higher than that of ~~the~~ said flexible member.

6. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 2 or 3, wherein ~~wherein:~~ ~~the~~ said regulating member is a ~~plate-type~~ plate-type regulating member fixed to ~~the~~ said flexible member.

7. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge according to Claim 1, ~~wherein:~~ ~~the~~ wherein said regulating member is integrally molded with the same material as ~~the~~ said flexible member, wherein the thickness of the portion of ~~the~~ said flexible member which is provided with ~~the~~ said regulating member ~~being~~ is larger than that of the portion thereof which is not provided with ~~the~~ said regulating member.

8. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic image forming apparatus to which ~~apparatus, to and from which~~ a process cartridge can be attached and from which the process ~~cartridge can be detached,~~ and adapted to be used to form an image on a recording medium, comprising:

(i) a mount configured and positioned to detachably mount the process cartridge, the process cartridge including an electrophotographic photosensitive member on which an electrostatic latent image is formed, process means ~~working~~ acting on the electrophotographic photosensitive member, a flexible member protecting the electrophotographic photosensitive member, and capable of ~~taking~~ assuming a protection position in which the flexible member protects the electrophotographic photosensitive member, and a retraction position in which the flexible member retracts from the protection position, a support member having a support portion on which the flexible member is supported, provided pivotably on a frame of the cartridge, and adapted to move the flexible member from the protection position to the retraction position, and a regulating member provided on the flexible member so as to regulate the positions of the creases which occur on the flexible member in accordance with a pivotal movement of the support member, and which extend ~~in~~ parallel with the longitudinal direction of the electrophotographic photosensitive member, ~~the apparatus having a mount for fixing thereto detachably the process cartridge in which~~ the flexible member is being foldable ~~folded~~ on the creases and ~~moved~~ movable to the retraction position,

(ii) moving means ~~adapted to move~~ for moving the support member so that the flexible member is moved to the retraction position in accordance with an action of fixing the process cartridge to the mount, and

(iii) conveying means for conveying the recording medium.